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quick facts on...

Land Acquisition for Everglades Restoration

JANUARY 2007

Key Message:

The State of Florida, the Florida Legislature and the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District have committed over **\$1 Billion** toward land acquisition to protect and restore the Everglades. Even with this unprecedented effort, additional assistance is needed to secure all the lands needed for restoration.

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

Achievements to Date

- Due to rapidly rising property values in South Florida, early acquisition is saving hundreds of millions of dollars and ensuring property is available for project use.
- To date, more than half — **55%, or 210,167 acres** — of estimated lands needed to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) have been acquired. Still needed: 176,987 acres.
- Aggressive land acquisition has averaged 23,000 acres per year for the last two years. If this rate continued, all remaining Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan lands could be acquired in 8½ years.
- Over the last six years, the **State of Florida has spent approximately \$1.4 billion**.
- During FY2006 alone, 33,443 acres were acquired.
- Land acquisition is currently ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) land acquisition strategy.
- Kissimmee River Restoration: Land acquisition is complete! A total of 102,061 acres was needed and acquired, with less than 1% condemnation.
- U.S. Department of Interior Grants: \$353,000,000 (CERP) total; no grant monies received since 2001 (\$4,000,000 request pending)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Grants: Wetlands Reserve Program: \$24,000,000 total (\$5,000,000 request pending)
- Local Partnerships (Miami-Dade, Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach and Broward counties): \$63,072,205
- State Mitigation Funds: \$11,870,898

Current Challenges

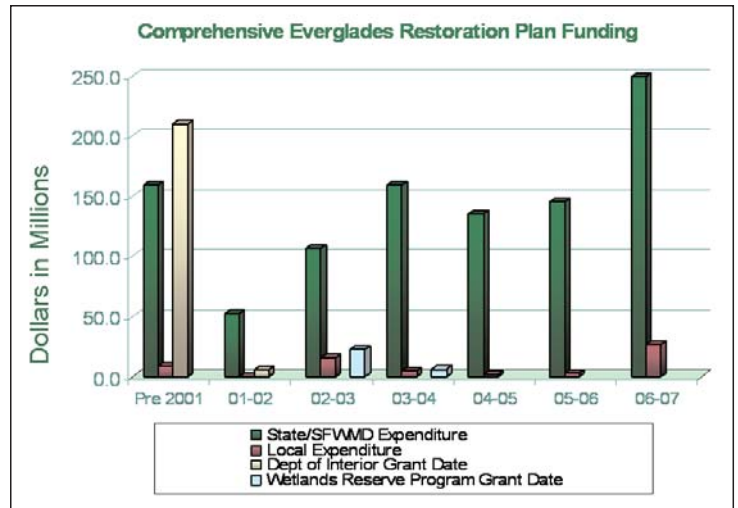
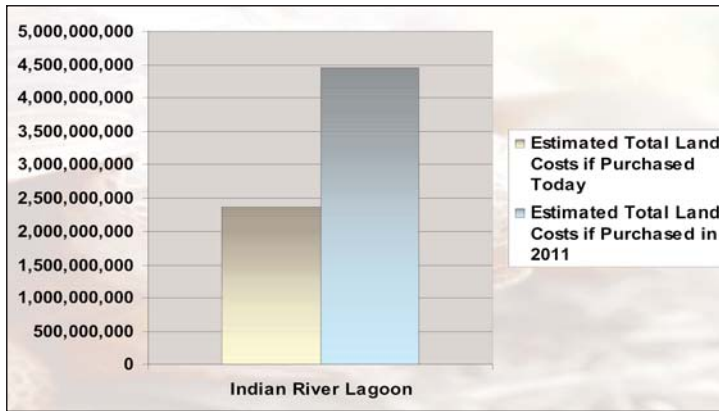
- Rising land values has reduced purchasing power for critical land acquisitions needed for CERP projects.
- Stretching limited funds with federal/ state/county partnerships.
- Exploring creative solutions for land acquisition, such as multiple funding sources, multi-year payout options and lease agreements.

Current Land Acquisition Priorities

- Approximately 26,000 acres for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (**\$326,000,000**)
- Approximately 9,000 acres for the C-111 Spreader Canal project, which will restore wetlands and near-shore habitat of Florida Bay (**\$45,000,000**)
- Approximately 9,000 acres for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project, which will expand and restore wetlands and improve the health of Biscayne National Park (**\$53,500,000**)

Land Acquisition Funding Sources

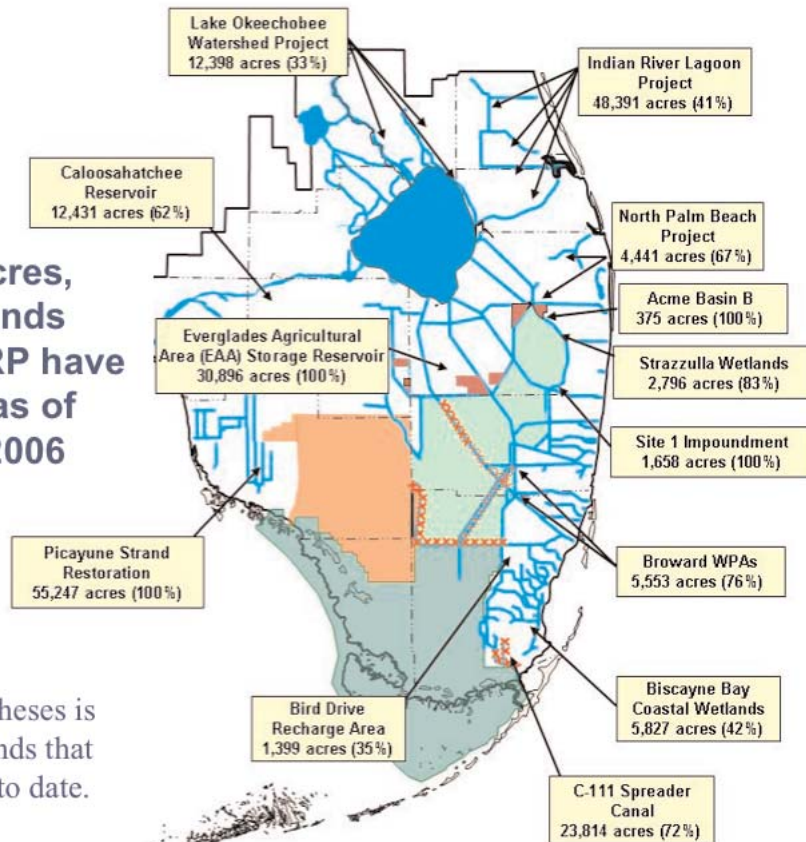
- Save Our Everglades Trust Fund: \$640,000,000 total funds (\$135,000,000 for FY 2007)
- Save Our Rivers / Florida Forever Funds: \$212,000,000 total funds (\$36,750,000 for FY 2007)



State and Federal funding has allowed early land acquisition

Over 210,000 acres, or 55% of the lands needed for CERP have been acquired as of September 30, 2006

*Indicated in parentheses is the percentage of lands that have been acquired to date.



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